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CC:
Date: Sun, 12/1/2013 4:41:08 AM
Subject: Few notes for my Master class tomorrow

משהו שכתבתי למאסטר קלאס שאני צריך לצלם מחר...
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Awareness / Consciousness-

I want to start with a general observation while playing your instrument because this will reflect on all of the musical aspects that will appear next.

-What is happening to your body when you take the instrument to your hand.

The way you seat or stand can reflect on your sound.

-Comfortable=natural sound

-Eventually you have to create the natural environment with your instrument that will reflect on your performance.

Focus/Concentration

-In a way it's like meditation.

-Try to bring your thoughts into one channel without letting it fly away...you need to practice on that, so you can improvise some exercises on how to maintain your focus.

For example:

Try playing scales and think about only one thing for the whole duration of playing the scale. And see how long can you keep it and not be distracted by some other thoughts that are trying to get into your brain at the same time. After a while you will improve the length you are focused.

Practice:

-Always use your brain.

-Ask yourself why?? What is the reason that I do what I do now.

-Improvise/invent your own exercise.

-Time:

The way you plan your practice time.

Its very important to plan for a short periods of practice times but every minute should be very concentrated. Don't waste your time, after few weeks of doing so you will see the improvement.

To conclude:

-Practice mindfully

-Making micro discoveries

-Define

-Analyze

-Identify solutions

-Test solutions

Sound

-Each song we play in sound can be different.

-Try to have an arsenal of sounds that you could pick and use in any situation

Playing with another musician/singer...

So of course you need to feel confident with your playing.

-How to integrate in the song (when to play? Or not to)

-The basic idea is to complete the music/song with your own color.

The music already exists with out me but I am trying to add my own flavor, it's like adding the salt and pepper to the dish.

-How to play together in a loud musical environment:

-Use the sense of touch.

-Today after many years of playing my instrument I am able to tell if I am in tune or not even with out hearing myself, I feel the vibration of the instrument and I know if I am in pitch or not,

my cello professor once told me that its all about how quick you fix it, if its so fast no one can really tell,

He once did an experiment and slowed down a recording of a well known violin soloist and he found out that he was extremely fast in correcting his pitch so you couldn't really here that….so it's all about how fast you react to different situations, you can make mistakes while playing but if you are fast in fixing it, no one could really hear that…

-Breath together.

-when to "speak up" while playing in a song,

understand when it is your moment to "shine" , (it has many aspects- few of them are volume and be expressive)

-You cant always play expressive , you need to understand where is the right moment in the song to do so.

So to finalize:

-Use the right sound for each phrase

-Dynamic

-Breath together- look with your eyes on the other musician hands.

-Fix your mistakes quickly as possible (a split of a second)

-Always be alert for changes. (which can be tricky cause when you play you really want to bring your overall emotions into the music but I believe that you should find the good balance in it especially if you accompany a lead singer or so..

Real Life:

-Eventually all of those topics that I talked about can be related to your daily life.

-When you start thinking about how to develop your career you should first think about the big picture:

-What are your goals in the next 5 years and than pick 3-4 important goals for the short term-for the following year and start achieving them.

-From what I learned with my own experience marketing yourself-your name-your talent is the key to success.

-We all learn music and play our instrument for so many years and there is a time in your career that you should start dealing with those topics(promoting).

Again: improvise different ways/ideas on how to promote yourself.

-Find different ways/ideas on how can people hear about me and hear how good I play.

-Follow your colleagues or some few other musicians that you like what they do

and try to use their ideas and integrate those ideas into your own life.

Uniqueness:

To my opinion this is THE most important goal in all of our musical life.

-Always try to find what is your own voice, your own special gift/talent.

The next step is to research to analyze it and to really go deep into that and treat it with a very delicate tools that you learned during your musical life. Like going into the lab and make a full research with a microscope.

Taking it to different direction each time, challenge yourself with how far can you really go with that and at the end create your own product that will be YOU, and no one else could compete with your talent or skills cause there is only one like you.

Stay positive:

If you think positive your life will be so.

Always try to improve and criticize yourself. Don't be afraid of a failure.

Everyone who succeed in life experienced many failures in one way or another.

So to finalize everything, I really believe that consciousness leads to practice and that's the optimal combination, once you are aware of what you do or what you are surrounded with you can work with it and on it and improve yourself as a musician and more important as human being.